

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiner Lund during the telephonic interviews held with Applicants' representative on April 6, 2007 and April 11, 2007.

By this amendment, independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended to more clearly recite that which Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 9 and 13-19 stand withdrawn from consideration and claims 4 and 6 were previously canceled. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-12 and 20-23 are presented for further examination.

Further to the discussions held with the examiner, the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-12 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is believed overcome by the foregoing amendments. No further changes are believed necessary.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Park, KR 2003-001624, and the rejection of claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Park in view of Fujikawa, US 5,595,606 are respectfully traversed.

As confirmed by the Examiner, in view of the claim to domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120, Park does not qualify as prior art under §102(b). Applicants submit herewith a verified English-language translation of international application no. PCT/JP02/00429, from which the above-identified application claims priority.

Park is prior art as of its publication date, January 8, 2003. The filing date of Park, however, is after the claimed priority date of the present application, January 22, 2002. Because Park is not properly available as a reference against the present application, the rejections based on Park are believed overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

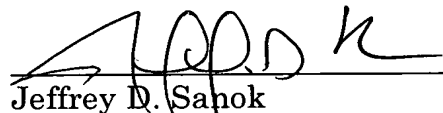
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2995 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101246.52582US).

Respectfully submitted,

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